

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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P 260931Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8278
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 09588

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, JA, CH
SUBJECT: LDP APPROVES REOPENING OF PFT TALKS

REF: TOKYO 7470

SUMMARY: PM FUKUDA HAS AGAIN ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO
REOPEN SINO-JAPANESE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT)
NEGOTIATIONS AND, AFTER SOME DIFFICULTY, HAS OBTAINED HIS
PARTY'S APPROVAL TO DO SO. FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL
REASONS, FUKUDA WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS BY
LATE AUGUST, BUT THE CHINESE HAVE YET TO BE HEARD FROM.
END SUMMARY.

1. AS FIRST PLANES BEGAN LANDING AT TROUBLED NARITA
AIRPORT, PM FUKUDA MAY 21 ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO GET
ON WITH NEXT MAJOR ITEM ON AGENDA, I.E., REOPEN SINO-
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JAPANESE PFT TALKS. HE IMMEDIATELY BEGAN ROUND OF CONSUL-
TATIONS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN LDP APPROVAL. DISAGREEMENT
IN LDP'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESEARCH COUNCIL/FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DIVISION WAS SURMOUNTED WHEN CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY ABE
SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT NOT TO OPPOSE REOPENING
OF TALKS AFTER STATING THAT SENKAKUS WERE WITHOUT QUESTION
JAPANESE TERRITORY AND HEGEMONY CLAUSE WOULD NOT BE AIMED

AT ANY THIRD COUNTRY.

2. MEANWHILE, PM FUKUDA MET SEPARATELY WITH THE MOST OUTSPOKEN OPPONENTS OF PFT: LDP ELDERS GROUP, AND LEADERS OF ASIA STUDY COUNCIL AND SEIRANKAI. AT FUKUDA'S URGING, THEY RELUCTANTLY AGREED NOT TO OPPOSE REOPENING OF PFT TALKS, SETTING STAGE FOR PRO FORMA APPROVAL BY LDP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MAY 26. AT THAT MEETING, SEIRANKAI SWASHBUCKLER (TAMAKI), BY RAISING ISSUE OF JAPANESE ATTITUDE TOWARD PRC STAND ON JAPAN-ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE, ONLY SUCCEEDED IN DELAYING COUNCIL APPROVAL A FEW HOURS.

3. WHILE DOUBTS ABOUT FUKUDA'S ENTHUSIASM FOR PFT PERSIST, THERE ARE OBVIOUS DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS FOR MOVING AHEAD. IF A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY TREATY CAN BE CONCLUDED BY LATE AUGUST, DIET RATIFICATION IN SEPTEMBER COULD CONCEIVABLY SET STAGE FOR DIET DISSOLUTION AND POPULAR MANDATE WHICH WOULD ASSURE FUKUDA'S CONTINUANCE AS PRIME MINISTER BEYOND DECEMBER. ON OTHER HAND, IF NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT PROCEED SATISFACTORILY, FUKUDA CAN AT LEAST AVOID CRITICISM FOR NOT HAVING TRIED AT ALL.

4. WITH THIS IN MIND, MOFA CHINA DIVISION DIRECTOR TAJIMA TOLD US MAY 25 THAT AMBASSADOR SATO WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO CALL ON VICE MINISTER HAN MAY 30 OR 31 TO PROPOSE THAT
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NEGOTIATIONS BE REOPENED. IF CHINESE AGREE, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY APPEARS AS OF NOW TO BELIEVE THEY WILL, FORMAL TALKS WOULD BEGIN SHORTLY AFTER CURRENT DIET SESSION ENDS ON JUNE 16. PASSAGE OF KOREAN CONTINENTAL SHELF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION, PRIMARY REASON FOR EXTENDED DIET SESSION, IS EXPECTED TO CALL FORTH NEGATIVE CHINESE REACTION, BUT NOT ONE SO SEVERE AS TO IMPERIL REOPENING OF TALKS. ASIAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL NAKAE IS SEEN AS MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE TO TRAVEL TO PEKING FOR TALKS. IF THERE WERE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS AT DIRGEN LEVEL, FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA WOULD APPLY FINISHING TOUCHES DURING VISIT LATER IN SUMMER.

5. VICE MINISTER ARITA CONFIRMED ABOVE SCENARIO TO AMBASSADOR MAY 26 NOTING THAT TWO DIRECTORS GENERAL MIGHT GO, THE SECOND PRESUMABLY BEING TREATIES BUREAU DIRGEN EDAMURA. ARITA SAID IT WAS UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER, WHETHER CHINESE WOULD AGREE TO OPEN TALKS BELOW FONMIN LEVEL. INSISTENCE ON FONMIN WOULD PRESENT DIFFICULTIES IN VIEW OF TIGHT SCHEDULE SONODA IS LOCKED INTO IN COMING WEEKS (SEPTTEL). ARITA DID NOT BELIEVE CHINESE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH LINKAGE BETWEEN PFT TALKS AND KOREAN CONTINENTAL SHELF LEGISLATION.

6. COMMENT: FOREGOING PLANS ASSUME MORE FORTHCOMING
POSTURE ON PART OF CHINESE THAN THEY HAVE EXHIBITED IN
PAST, AND GOJ OPTIMISM MAY ONCE AGAIN PROVE MISPLACED.
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